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BULLETIN

OF

THE AMERICAN ART-UNION.

VOL. II.

SEPTEMBER, 1849.

No. 6.

ONE number, at least, of this publication will be issued every month. It is intended to contain a descriptive catalogue of the works purchased, critical notices, extracts from foreign periodicals, and interesting items of news in relation to the Fine Arts. A woodcut will generally be given.

THE BULLETIN WILL BE FURNISHED GRATUITOUSLY TO HONORARY SECRETARIES AND TO THOSE MEMBERS WHO, AFTER PAYING THEIR SUBSCRIPTIONS, SHALL ASK FOR IT AT THE DESK, OR SIGNIFY THEIR DESIRE TO HAVE IT FORWARDED TO THEM BY MAIL. To all others, the price will be six cents per number.

The Engravings, Outlines and "Transactions" are now ready for delivery to all the subscribers of the year 1848.

THE PROGRAMME FOR THE YEAR 1849.

THE subject of the engraving for the present year is "*Youth*," being the second picture of MR. COLE's celebrated series of the "*Voyage of Life*." It will be executed by JAMES SMILLIE.

Each member will also be entitled to a volume of *Etchings*, similar to the "*Rip Van Winkle*." The subject of these Etchings, is MR. IRVING's tale of the "*Legend of Sleepy Hollow*," and the work will be entrusted to F. O. C. DARLEY.

The Medal will be commemorative of COL. TRUMBULL.

Twenty copies in bronze, twenty-two inches in height, from a *Statuette*, by H. K. BROWN, illustrative of Indian character, will be included in the distribution.

TO OUR READERS.

THE Catalogue of the pictures which have been purchased by the American Art-Union since the publication of the last number of the Bulletin, will appear in the next number, which will be issued at the opening of the new Gallery. It is thought that this will take place about the 17th instant.

THE DEPARTMENT OF DRAWING IN THE FREE ACADEMY.

It may be known to most of our readers, that the gentlemen who were charged with the organization of the Free Academy in this city, wisely determined to introduce Drawing as a part of the regular course of instruction therein. It was thought, leaving out of view the humanizing influence of the tastes which a knowledge of this branch would encourage, that its importance in the practical business of life, particularly to machinists, engineers, surveyors, and handicraftsmen of various

sorts, was sufficient to warrant its introduction into this school, which was intended for the education of boys, many of whom would probably engage in these employments. Mr. DUGGAN was appointed the Professor, and during the term which has lately terminated, about one hour every day has been devoted to Drawing. The pupils have had the oral instructions of the teacher illustrated by the black-board. They have themselves practised upon the black-board, and also with the lead pencil. Their progress has been gratifying, all the circumstances being considered. We have seen some of the specimens of their work in the copying of heads and figures, and observed with pleasure the improvement shown by a comparison between their earlier and later productions. What has much astonished us, however, was the inequality in the progress of these boys. The development of talent, in two or three instances, was remarkable, and exhibited strongly the differences between different individuals in the predisposition to artistic pursuits. It is even now evident, although so short a period of practice and instruction has been enjoyed, that one or two among them have marked natural gifts for these avocations, and may make themselves, if they please, distinguished artists. On the other hand, there are several who seem to be entirely wanting in the power of imitation, and to have no more eye for Form now than they had the first day they put pencil to paper. Of course the great majority are between these two extremes, and their improvement is quite respectable and fully sufficient to justify the addition of this branch to the studies of the institution. The city is fortunate in having secured the services of the accomplished Professor who is at the head of this department. To a knowledge of the principles of Form, which has honorably distinguished him among our artists, he unites the power of explaining his subject in a luminous manner, and also the most catholic and enlarged views upon the true objects and purposes of Art.

We hope that this is but the beginning of a system which, at some future day, may extend the cultivation of this important branch, to a greater or less degree, through the higher free schools of the State. It is to this general instruction of the young in the principles of drawing, that we look, in part, for the development of those liberal views which in the course of time will influence the action of municipal and legislative bodies, and promote that generous and unfailing patronage, without which no work of Art, of the highest order of excellence, can ever be executed.